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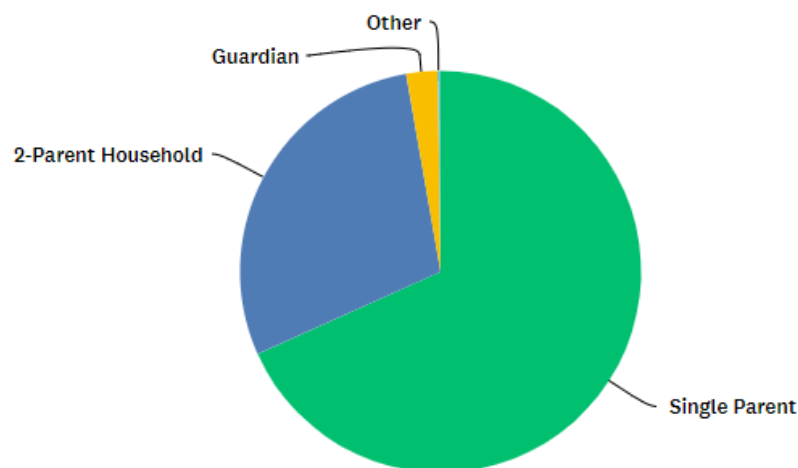
Child Care Subsidy Program Parent Fee Survey Report

In December 2020, Congress approved the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSA). The CRRSA included \$10 billion in additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to provide additional support to families and providers as the COVID-19 pandemic continues and to assist with recovery. Of this amount, Maine received \$30.5 million.

On March 27, 2021, as part of the ongoing COVID-19 relief and support to Maine families, the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) waived the parent fee for child care. To determine the impact of this initiative on families, CCSP recently emailed 1960 parents and guardians an invitation asking for their input to a 12-question survey. The survey responses were collected from June 30 - August 3, 2021. The survey had a 24% participation rate with 473 completed surveys received. Below are the survey questions and responses.

Question 1 - Are you a:

❖ Single Parent	68%	323
❖ 2-Parent Household	29%	137
❖ Guardian	3%	12
❖ Other	0.21%	1



Question 2 - How many children in your household need child care?

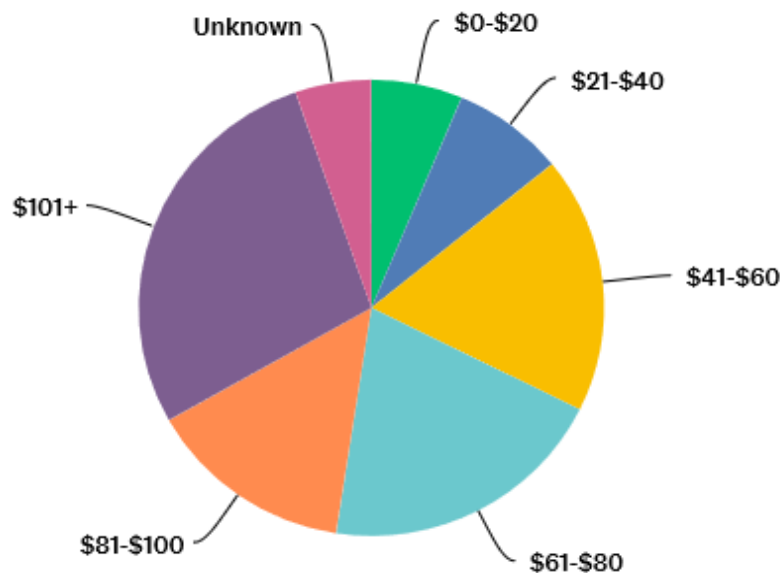
❖ One	44%	210
❖ Two	37%	176
❖ Three	14%	68
❖ Four	3%	12
❖ Five	1%	5
❖ Other	0.4%	2

Question 3 - What are the ages of the children in your household who need child care?

❖ Infant: Six weeks to twelve months	57
❖ Toddler: Thirteen months to thirty-six months	173
❖ Pre-school: Thirty-seven months - not yet in Kindergarten	204
❖ School Age: In Kindergarten or older	238

Question 4 - What was your weekly parent fee prior to March 27, 2021?

❖ \$0-\$20	6%	30
❖ \$21-\$40	8%	37
❖ \$41-\$60	18%	86
❖ \$61-\$80	20%	96
❖ \$81-\$100	14%	68
❖ \$101+	28%	132
❖ Unknown	5%	25



Question 5 - How are you using your parent fee savings now?

❖ Rent / Mortgage	304
❖ Clothes	201
❖ Food	331
❖ Transportation	184
❖ Utilities	283
❖ Other (please specify)	64

Examples of responses provided in the “Other” category include:

- 6 respondents identified vehicle needs such as gas, repairs, car payment, general maintenance, and car insurance.
- 10 respondents identified ability to pay on other debt such as medical bills, graduate tuition, college expenses, child care for other children, future education needs for child and other household expenses and bills.
- 15 respondents indicated savings, including – having a savings for the first time, saving for a new home, unexpected emergencies, future child care expense, and paying tutor for math and reading help for daughter due to remote learning.
- 7 respondents indicated the savings would pay for diapers, car seats, baby wipes, and baby formula.

Question 6 - How do you plan to use your parent fee savings in the future? Check all that apply.

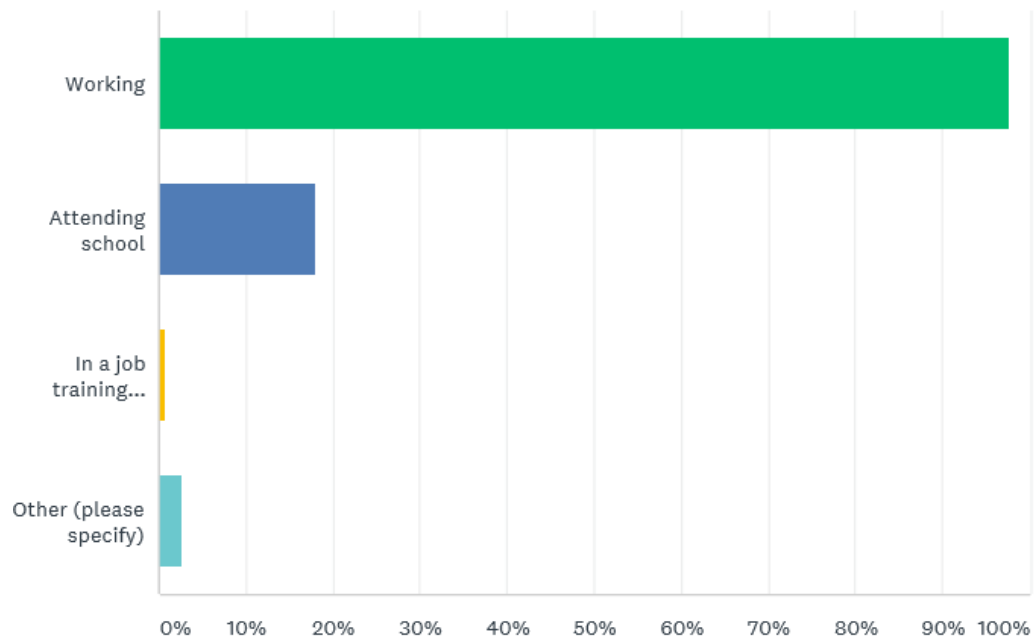
❖ Rent/Mortgage	340
❖ Clothes	260
❖ Food	351
❖ Transportation	218
❖ Utilities	332
❖ Other (please specify)	68

Examples of responses provided in the “Other” category include:

- “Will use some of it to help alleviate the cost of Christmas and our boys’ birthdays that all fall within a matter of 2 weeks.”
- “Expecting twins in Sept so will be out on leave.”
- “Extra snacks such as fruits. My kids eat more fresh fruits than I can normally afford.”
- “Child’s needs outside of just clothing & saving for her potential college education.”
- “Being able to finally start an emergency savings fund is a big deal for us!”
- “School shopping.”

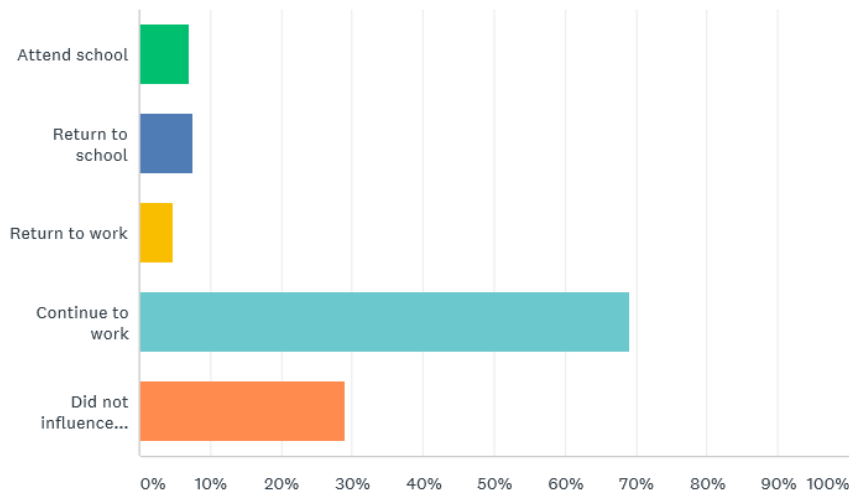
Question 7 - Are you currently...? Check all that apply.

❖ Working	98%	462
❖ Attending school	18%	85
❖ In a job training program	1%	4
❖ Other (please specify)	3%	13



Question 8 - Knowing your parent fee is waived, did this influence you to...? Check all that apply.

❖ Attend school	7%	34
❖ Return to school	8%	36
❖ Return to work	5%	23
❖ Continue to work	69%	327
❖ Did not influence decision	29%	138

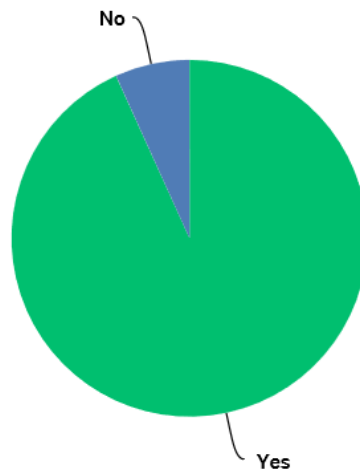


Question 9 - What type of care is your child(ren) currently in? Check the box that best applies.

❖ Family Child Care	73
❖ Center/Facility	362
❖ Recreational	8
❖ In-home license-exempt relative	5
❖ In-home license-exempt non-relative	19
❖ License-exempt	5
❖ License-exempt relative	1

Question 10 - Is your child(ren) in your ideal child care arrangement?

Yes 93% **No** 7%



Question 11 – If no, what is your ideal child care arrangement?

❖ Family Child Care	21%
❖ Center/Facility	66%
❖ Recreational	4%
❖ In-home license-exempt relative (In-home L-E Rel)	2%
❖ In-home license-exempt non-relative (In-home L-E Non-Rel)	4%
❖ License-exempt	2%
❖ License-exempt relative (L-E Relative)	1%

Question 12 - Email addresses: (Emails will be utilized for updated surveys)

- ❖ 414 Responses
- ❖ 59 Skipped

Question 13 - In what county do you live?

❖ Aroostook	4%	17
❖ Androscoggin	20%	95
❖ Cumberland	2%	10
❖ Franklin	3%	14
❖ Hancock	4%	19
❖ Kennebec	20%	96
❖ Knox	3%	16
❖ Lincoln	2%	11
❖ Oxford	6%	28
❖ Penobscot	10%	48
❖ Piscataquis	1%	4
❖ Sagadahoc	4%	20
❖ Somerset	5%	24
❖ Waldo	3%	14
❖ Washington	2%	8
❖ York	11%	51